(10) Setting 12-month permanency hearing (Welf & I C §§366(a), 366.21(a); Cal Rules of Ct 1461(a), (c))

A 12-month permanency hearing is set for [insert date within six months].

[To parents or guardians]

You have the right to be present and represented by counsel at that hearing.

D. [§103.66] Script: Findings and Orders—12-Month Permanency Hearing

(1) Return of child

The court orders that custody of [name of child] shall be returned to [name of parent/guardian/other former custodian].

[*Or*]

The court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that returning the child home would create a substantial risk of harm to the child's [physical health/emotional well-being] because [state reasons]. Therefore, [name of child] may not be returned home at this time.

(2) Reasonable reunification services (Cal Rules of Ct 1461(c)(4))

Reasonable reunification services have [not] been [provided/offered] to the [parents/guardians].

(3) Finding re placement (Welf & I C §366.21(f); Cal Rules of Ct 1461(d); 42 USC §675(5)(B))

The court finds that the placement [continues to be/is no longer] necessary because [state reasons] and [is appropriate/is no longer appropriate] to this child because [state reasons].

[Name of custodian] shall therefore have custody of the child effective [date].

The court further finds that:

DSS and [parents/guardians/other] have participated regularly and made substantive progress in court-ordered treatment programs.

DSS has provided services and opportunities but [name of parent/guardian/other] has not participated regularly and made substantive progress in court-ordered treatment programs in that [describe].

[*Or*]

The services provided have been inadequate in that [describe].

(4) Finding re foster care

The court also finds that the following progress has been made toward alleviating or eliminating the need for foster care: [describe].

(5) Further Hearings

The court finds that to return [name of child] to the custody of [his/her] [parents/guardians] would be detrimental because [state reasons]. The court also finds that [there is a substantial probability that [name of child] will be returned to the physical custody of [name of parent/guardian]/reasonable services have not been provided to [name of parent/guardian]].

Therefore, a permanency review hearing is set for [date within six months, but not later than 18 months from the date the child was taken from the physical custody of the parent or guardian (see Welf & I C §366.21(g)(1); Cal Rules of Ct 1462(a))].

[To parent or guardian]

You have the right to be present and represented by counsel at that hearing.

If [name of child] cannot be returned home by the next review hearing, a proceeding for termination of parental rights under Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.26 may be instituted.

Note: This procedure is authorized by Welf & I C §366.21(g)(1).

[*Or*]

The court finds by clear and convincing evidence that [name of child] is not a proper subject for adoption and there is no one willing to accept legal guardianship. Therefore, [name of child] shall remain in long-term foster care and a hearing is set for [date not later than six months].

The court finds by clear and convincing evidence that reunification services have been offered or provided to [name of parent or guardian].

(6) Scheduling .26 hearing

A hearing under Welfare and Institutions Code section 366.26 will be scheduled for [date within 120 days (see Welf & I C §366.21(e); Cal Rules of Ct 1461(d)(3))].

This order may be challenged by the filing of an extraordinary writ in the appellate court.

(7) Discontinuing reunification services (Welf & I C §366.21(h)–(i))

Reunification services shall be discontinued. DSS shall prepare an assessment that includes the current search efforts for the absent parent, a review of the nature and amount of contacts between [name of child] and the [parent/guardian], prospects for adoption, and an evaluation of [name of child].

(8) Visitation

Visitation with [parent/guardian] shall continue.

[Discontinuance or prohibition of visitation (see Welf & I C §366.21(h))]

The court finds that visitation would be detrimental to [name of child] and therefore must [be discontinued/not take place].

E. [§103.67] Script: Findings and Orders—18-Month Permanency Review

(1) Return of child

The court orders that custody of [name of child] shall be returned to [name of parent/guardian/other former custodian].

[*Or*]

The court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that returning the child home would create a substantial risk of harm to the child's [physical health/emotional well-being] because [state reasons]. Therefore, [name of child] may not be returned home at this time.

Reasonable reunification services have [not] been [provided/offered] to the [parent/guardian].

[Continue]

The court finds by clear and convincing evidence that [name of child] is not a proper subject for adoption and there is no one willing to accept legal guardianship. Therefore, [name of child] shall remain in long-term foster care and a hearing is set for [date not later than six months].